

## SUPPORT ASKED FOR TENNESSEE CHILDREN'S CODE

Commission Faces Lack of  
Funds in Carrying Out Nec-  
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KNOXVILLE, Tenn., Oct. 20.—Both financial and moral support of a children's code for Tennessee is being asked by members of the Tennessee Child Welfare Commission, which was created by Gov. Roberts in January, 1920. The commission has no funds of its own with which to carry out its necessary data and drafts for legislative action which will be presented at the next regular session of the state legislature in January.

When Gov. Roberts created such a commission, he placed Prof. Albert S. Williams, state superintendent of public instruction, at its head.

Messinger, executive secretary of the state board of charities and corrections, was made secretary and treasurer. The other members are: Gov. A. H. Roberts, J. H. Kirkland, Dr. H. A. Morgan, president of the University of Tennessee; R. F. Hudson, P. M. McRae, F. E. Myers, Dr. Olin West, John W. Fry, J. P. Krantz, E. A. McKemie, Judge E. G. Stocks, Mrs. T. F. Kelley, Milton S. Blinswanger, Dr. T. W. Glocker, Mrs. Eugene Crutcher, Mrs. Claude D. Sullivan, and Mrs. F. L. Underwood.

The local members are Dr. Morgan, president of the University of Tennessee; Dr. T. W. Glocker, professor of economics and sociology at the university, and E. G. Stocks, judge of the juvenile court.

Dr. Raymond G. Fuller, associate director of the National Child Labor commission, with headquarters in New York, and C. C. Menzies have been here for an informal conference with members of the state commission for the purpose of discussing proposed legislation for the betterment of conditions affecting children in Tennessee.

At the request of the Tennessee commission, the national child labor committee recently made a state-wide survey of conditions in schools. A staff of specialists was at work for eight months in Tennessee making one of the most comprehensive and exhaustive studies of child-welfare conditions and problems that has ever been made on a state-wide scale.

The report of this staff of specialists, which is now before the commission and will later be presented to the governor and to the legislature, contains chapters on: The child and the state; health, schools, recreation, child labor, rural life, juvenile courts, mother's pensions, institutions and home finding.

In an interview following his conference with members of the commission, Dr. Fuller stated that there were four outstanding defects of the Tennessee schools: The short term, the poor attendance, the prevailing old-fashioned type of school building which is poorly built and poorly equipped, and the inefficient and untrained teachers.

"Each of these evils mentioned works together for one end—they prevent the child from securing the education to which he is entitled," said Dr. Fuller, "a state should provide a system of schools so operated and taught that a normal child should complete the work of the elementary grades at the end of his fourteenth year."

In four counties of Tennessee the agents of the National Child Labor commission conducted intensive school survey. Age and grade records were taken for each school, and on a liberal two-year basis—by that I mean considering that a child 7 years old should be in the first or second grade, a child of 8 years old should be in the second or third grade, and so on—it was found that nearly one-half of the children were retarded at least one year, and that over one-third of those who were retarded three years or more.

"Remedies for this condition of things are suggested in the defects of the school system which has brought them about. To make the schools most efficient, the term should be lengthened; the truancy laws should be enforced; the type of buildings should be improved; and the standard of teachers should be raised."

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